

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
 PCT/JP02/09555

 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 Int.Cl⁷ G01N1/00, G01N35/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 Int.Cl⁷ G01N1/00-1/44, G01N35/00-35/10

 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2002
 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2002 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2002

 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 JICST FILE (JOIS)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y A	JP 5-45365 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 23 February, 1993 (23.02.93), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1, 4-6 2, 3, 7-29
Y A	JP 3149867 B2 (Yokogawa Electric Corp.), 19 January, 2001 (19.01.01), Full text; Figs. 1 to 4 & JP 2000-180456 A Full text; Figs. 1 to 4	1, 4-6 2, 3, 7-29
Y A	WO 00/52446 A (Qualisys Diagnostics, Inc.), 08 September, 2000 (08.09.00), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 & JP 2002-538458 A Full text; Figs. 1 to 3	4 10, 13, 19, 24, 29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

 Date of the actual completion of the international search
 24 December, 2002 (24.12.02)

 Date of mailing of the international search report
 14 January, 2003 (14.01.03)

 Name and mailing address of the ISA/
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y A	US 5273905 A (Amco Corp.), 28 December, 1993 (28.12.93), Full text; Figs. 1 to 34 & JP 5-87817 A Full text; Figs. 1 to 34 & EP 508568 A Full text; Figs. 1 to 34	1, 4-6 2, 3, 7-29
A	WO 00/45957 A (Life Technologies, Inc.), 10 August, 2000 (10.08.00), Full text; Figs. 1 to 23 & JP 2002-536158 A Full text; Figs. 1 to 23	1-29
A	WO 99/63323 A (Ontogen Corp.), 09 December, 1999 (09.12.99), Full text; Figs. 1 to 20 & JP 2002-517716 A Full text; Figs. 1 to 20	1-29